AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims below replaces all prior versions of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) An electronic mail client comprising:

means for transmitting an electronic mail via a mail server; and

means for storing information representing a plurality of mail servers and a priority order of the respective mail servers;

selection means for selecting a mail server for transmitting an electronic mail in accordance with the priority order stored in the means for storing; and

determining means for determining a type of failure that has occurred when the transmission of the electronic mail via the selected mail server fails, and for determining, in accordance with the type of failure determined, whether to select a mail server of next in priority order, to establish a connection again with the mail server that was selected at the time of the failure in the transmission of the electronic mail, or to cancel the transmission; and

a bypass permission table which stores data indicating whether or not it is possible for the means for transmitting to bypass the selected mail server and the selection means select the mail server of next in priority order for transmitting the electronic mail, wherein the bypass permission table can be formed and rewritten.

2. – 3. (Canceled)

4. (Previously Presented) The electronic mail client according to claim 1, wherein when the determining means determines that the type of failure is a failure in a connection with the selected mail server, a mail server of the next in priority order is selected.

5. (Previously Presented) The electronic mail client according to claim 4, wherein when the determining means determines the failure in the connection with the selected mail server, the mail server of the next in order is selected immediately without waiting for an elapse of waiting time.

6. (Previously Presented) The electronic mail client according to claim 1, wherein when a connection with the selected mail server is established but the determining means determines that the type of failure is a temporary error generated during a communication, the connection is established again with the mail server that was selected at the time of the failure in the transmission of the electronic mail.

7. (Previously Presented) The electronic mail client according to claim 1, wherein when the determining means determines that the type of failure is a failure in transmission of the electronic mail due to incorrect destination, the transmission is cancelled.

8. (Previously Presented) The electronic mail client according to claim 7, wherein when the determining means determines the failure in transmission of the electronic mail due to the incorrect destination, a message indicating such a fact is output, and the transmission is cancelled.

9. (Previously Presented) The electronic mail client according to claim 1, further comprising:

a plurality of means for transmitting;

a plurality of destinations of the electronic mail; and

means for storing whether or not to select a mail server of next in priority order for each means for transmitting or for each destination of the electronic mail.

10. (Currently Amended) The electronic mail client according to claim 9, ~~further comprising a~~ wherein the bypass permission table ~~which~~ stores <u>data indicating</u> whether or not ~~to select~~ <u>it is possible to bypass a selected mail server and select a mail server of next in priority order for each means for transmitting or each destination of the electronic mail</u> ~~a mail server of next in priority order for each means for transmitting or for each destination of the electronic mail, wherein the bypass permission table can be formed and rewritten.~~

11. (Currently Amended) The electronic mail client according to claim 1, wherein there is a limit on whether or not to select a mail server of next in priority order according to a level of authority of [[a]] <u>the</u> means for transmitting.

12. (Currently Amended) The electronic mail client according to claim 1, wherein [[a]] the means for transmitting can determine whether or not to select the mail server of next in priority order for each transmission of an electronic mail.

13. (Previously Presented) The electronic mail client according to claim 1, further comprising a mail server list which stores the plurality of mail servers and the priority order of the plurality of mail servers, wherein the mail server list is rewritable.

14. (Previously Presented) The electronic mail client according to claim 1, further comprising:

means for forming a transmission log;

wherein "transmission date and time", "destination", "mail server that was used", and "transmission result" are written in the transmission log.

15. (Original) The electronic mail client according to claim 14, wherein the transmission log is formed for each Transmission Control Protocol (TCP) connection.

16. (Original) The electronic mail client according to claim 14, wherein the transmission log is formed for each Simple Mail Transfer Protocol (SMTP) transmission.

17. – 18. (Canceled)

19. (Currently Amended) A recording medium storing a program for controlling an electronic mail client which transmits an electronic mail via a mail server, the program controlling the electronic mail client to perform a method, comprising:

storing information representing a plurality of mail servers and a priority order of the respective mail servers;

selecting a mail server for transmitting an electronic mail in accordance with the stored priority order;

determining a type of failure that has occurred when transmission of the electronic mail via the selected mail server fails; ~~and~~

determining, in accordance with the type of failure determined, whether to select a mail server of next in priority order, to establish a connection again with the mail server that was selected at the time of failure in the transmission of the electronic mail or to cancel the transmission; and

determining, based on a rewritable bypass permission table, whether or not it is possible to bypass the selected mail server for transmitting the electronic mail and to select the mail server of next in priority order for transmitting the electronic mail.

20. (Cancelled)